

REMARKS

Claims 26-42 are pending in the present Application. Claim 35 has been amended and Claims 27-34 and 38-42 have been cancelled without prejudice, leaving Claims 26, 35, 36, and 37 for further consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claim 35 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating all of the limitations from the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 27-34 and 38-42 have been cancelled without prejudice, including Applicants' right to file a continuation application thereon, in order to expedite allowance of the present application.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 39-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is moot as Claims 39-42 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 27-34 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sternlieb et al (US 5737813).

Claims 39-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sternlieb et al. (US 2003/0101558).

These rejections are moot as Claims 27-34 and 38-41 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 42 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sternlieb et al (US 2003/0101558).

Claims 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Sternlieb et al (US 2003/0101558) in view of Sternlieb (US 5737813).

These rejections are moot as Claims 39-42 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26, 36 and 37 are allowed.

Claim 35 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating all of the limitations from the base claim and any intervening claims, and as such is now allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 10-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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